

CLAIMS:

1. Method for cleaning a vehicle with a vehicle washing facility comprising at least one first cleaning tool vertically aligned and movable past the vehicle to be cleaned in a longitudinal and in a transverse direction thereof and at least one second cleaning tool horizontally aligned, movable in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and adjustable in a vertical direction in accordance with the contour of the vehicle, wherein a checking device checks whether the length of the vehicle exceeds a predetermined maximum value and wherein the rear of the vehicle and/or the front of the vehicle are cleaned only with the first or only with the second cleaning tool when the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.
2. Method as defined in claim 1, wherein prior to activating the first and second cleaning tools it is first checked whether the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.
3. Method as defined in claim 2, wherein prior to activating the first and second cleaning tools the vehicle is moved beyond a predeterminable drive-in position forwards as far as a stop position and its front area is subsequently cleaned only with the second cleaning tool insofar as the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.

4. Method as defined in claim 1, wherein when a first and/or second cleaning tool is already activated it is checked whether the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.
5. Method as defined in claim 1, wherein the rear of the vehicle is cleaned only with the first cleaning tool insofar as the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.
6. Method as defined in claim 1, wherein it is checked by means of at least one sensor operating without contact whether the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.
7. Vehicle washing facility for carrying out the method as defined in claim 1 comprising at least one first cleaning tool vertically aligned and movable past the vehicle to be cleaned in a longitudinal and in a transverse direction thereof and comprising at least one second cleaning tool horizontally aligned, movable in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and adjustable in a vertical direction in accordance with the contour of the vehicle, wherein the vehicle washing facility comprises a checking device for checking whether the length of the vehicle exceeds a predetermined maximum value and wherein only the at least one first cleaning tool or only the at least one second cleaning tool is adapted to be activated for cleaning the front of the vehicle and/or the rear of the vehicle when the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.
8. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein the checking device comprises a sensor unit positioned at a predetermined distance in relation to a front end of the vehicle washing facility with respect to the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned.

9. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 8, wherein the sensor unit is designed as a light barrier.
10. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein the vehicle washing facility comprises two first cleaning tools each positionable on one side of the vehicle to be cleaned.
11. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 10, wherein the two first cleaning tools are designed as wash brushes each rotatable about a vertical axis of rotation.
12. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein a second cleaning tool is designed as a wash brush rotatable about a horizontal axis of rotation.
13. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein the first cleaning tools comprise at least one vertically aligned nozzle arrangement adapted to be acted upon with cleaning liquid for cleaning the vehicle.
14. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 13, wherein the nozzle arrangement comprises at least two groups of nozzles, wherein a first group of nozzles faces the vehicle to be cleaned during a transverse movement and a second group of nozzles during a longitudinal movement of the nozzle arrangement.
15. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 13, wherein at least one nozzle arrangement comprises three groups of nozzles, wherein a first group of nozzles faces the vehicle during a transverse movement in front of the vehicle to be cleaned, a second group of nozzles during a

longitudinal movement along a longitudinal side of the vehicle and a third group of nozzles during a transverse movement behind the vehicle to be cleaned.

16. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein a second cleaning tool is designed as a horizontally aligned nozzle arrangement adapted to be acted upon with cleaning liquid and comprising first and second groups of nozzles, wherein with respect to the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned the first group of nozzles is directed at the vehicle with a directional component pointing rearwards at an angle and the second group of nozzles with a directional component pointing forwards at an angle.
17. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein control sensors are associated with the first and second cleaning tools for controlling the cleaning tools during their movement along the vehicle.
18. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein with respect to the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned the first and second cleaning tools are held on a transport device displaceable along a guideway so as to be offset relative to one another and form front and rear cleaning tools, wherein an end sensor is arranged between the front and rear cleaning tools for detecting the front and/or rear end of the vehicle.
19. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 18, wherein the end sensor comprises a light barrier aligned at an angle to the horizontal.
20. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 18, wherein the vehicle washing facility comprises a front and/or a rear end switch making a

signal available as soon as the transport device has reached the front and/or rear end of the guideway with respect to the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned.

21. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 20, wherein the checking device comprises a control unit coupled to the end switch, the end sensor as well as to the control sensor of the front and/or rear cleaning tool and controlling the front and rear cleaning tools for cleaning the front of the vehicle and/or the rear of the vehicle.
22. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 21, wherein the front cleaning tool with respect to the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned is adapted to be deactivated by means of the control unit insofar as not only the rear end switch but also the control sensor of the front cleaning tool are activated and the end sensor indicates the rear of the vehicle has been passed.
23. Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 21, wherein the rear cleaning tool with respect to the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned is adapted to be deactivated by means of the control unit insofar as not only the front end switch but also the control sensor of the rear cleaning tool are activated and the end sensor indicates the front of the vehicle has been passed.